

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-36.(Cancelled).

37. (Currently Amended) An *in vitro* method for detecting human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) ~~endogenous~~ reverse transcriptase (RT) activity comprising:

- (a) purifying HIV-1 from infected cells;
- (b) lysing the HIV-1 with detergent ~~to activate endogenous RT activity~~;
- (c) incubating the HIV-1 lysate of step (b) under reaction mixture conditions that facilitate reverse transcription, wherein the reaction mixture includes oligo dT; and
- (d) detecting the cDNA product formed by the RT in step (c).

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, comprising preparing a supernatant from the infected cells.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the reaction mixture conditions comprise a labeled nucleotide.